

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings includes changes to Figures 1 and 2. These sheets, which include Figures 1 and 2, replace the original sheets including Figures 1 and 2.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the present amendment and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 16-18, 20, 21, 23-29, and 31-38 are presently active in this case. The present amendment amends Claims 16-18, 20, 21, and 23-29; cancels Claims 19, 22, and 30; and adds Claims 31-38. Support for the present amendment can be found, for example, in original Claims 19 and 22, and in the original specification, for example at page 6, lines 1-24, with corresponding Figures 1 and 2. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added.

The outstanding Office Action objected to the specification, drawings, and Claim 30 because of informalities. The outstanding Office Action rejected Claims 16-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The outstanding Office Action rejected Claims 19, 25, 26, and 28-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 16-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kato (U.S. Patent No. 5,607,177) in view of Kurosu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,516,129; herein "Kurosu").

As Claim 30 is canceled by the present amendment, it is respectfully submitted that the outstanding objection and rejection of Claim 30 are moot.

In response to the objection to the drawings, submitted herewith is a Letter Submitting Drawing Sheets along with 2 Replacement Sheets for Figures 1 and 2, adding the appropriate legends and labels. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added.

The outstanding Office Action states in section 1a that it is not clear where part 11 is in Figure 1. It is respectfully submitted that part 11 is not intended to be seen from the perspective shown in Figure 1 as part 11 is located below part 12. The location of part 11 with respect to part 12 can be seen in Figure 2.

The outstanding Office Action also states in section 1a that the structure of plane 11 is not clear from the drawings. It is respectfully submitted that the joining plane 43 is a vertical plane at the junction between the upper part of the third coaxial round 41 and the raised edge 12, as described at page 7, line 13 of the specification as originally filed, and as shown in amended Figure 2.

In response to the objection to the drawings outlined in section 1b of the outstanding Office Action, the specification is amended such that reference numeral 43 is consistently described as "joining plane 43," and reference numeral 44 is consistently described as "joining plane 44."

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the drawings in sections 1a and 1b of the outstanding Office Action be withdrawn.

In response to the objection to the drawings contained in section 2 of the outstanding Office Action, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 25 is amended to recite "the dropped edge is configured to receive indexing bores." A person of ordinary skill in the art looking at Figure 1 would understand that the horizontal plane of the dropped edge 12 is configured to receive indexing bores. Claim 26 is amended to recite "means for receiving a means for determining a stable position of the vehicle." A non-limiting example of the means for receiving is shown in Figure 1 as the fastening hole 14. Claim 29 is amended to remove the term "marking and indexing of the dropped edge." Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the drawings in section 2 of the outstanding Office Action be withdrawn.

In response to the objections to the specification, the specification is amended to correct the noted informalities. In light of their informal nature, the changes to the specification do not raise a question of new matter.

In response to the objection to Claims 16-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, the specification is amended to correct the noted informalities. Additionally, it is respectfully

submitted that the formula described on page 8 of the original specification is not currently claimed. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that this objection be withdrawn.

In response to the rejection of Claims 19, 25, 26, and 28-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, Claims 19, 26, and 29 are amended to correct the noted informalities. Additionally, it is respectfully submitted that the term "indexing bores" recited in Claim 25 refers to, for example a keying slot that makes it possible to index the front gear during assembly of the vehicle.¹ Regarding Claim 28, the outstanding Office Action states that "there is no flange connected to bore 4 in an uninterrupted manner and oriented toward the rear coupling." Applicants respectfully submit that a flange connected to a bore corresponding to the front coupling can be seen, for example, as reference numeral 42 in Figure 2.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 19, 25, 26, 28, and 29 particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claims 19, 25, 26, and 28-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn. If, however, the Examiner disagrees that all pending claims are definite, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned who will be happy to work with the Examiner in a joint effort to derive mutually acceptable language.

In response to the rejection of Claims 16-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, as discussed next.

Briefly recapitulating, Applicants' invention, as recited in Claim 16, relates to a front suspension arm of a motor vehicle including three bores, an arc-shaped center part, and a vertical wall. The three bores include a wheel coupling to couple the arm to a wheel support, and a front coupling and a rear coupling to couple the arm to a hinge formed between the arm and a chassis of the vehicle. The arc-shaped center part includes a first side connecting the

¹ See the original specification, for example, at page 6, lines 10-24.

wheel coupling and the rear coupling, a second side connecting the wheel coupling and the front coupling, and a third side connecting the front coupling and the rear coupling. The vertical wall is arranged along a first side and extends above the center part. The arm is a single sheet metal part and the bores corresponding to the front coupling and the rear coupling have appreciably perpendicular axes.

As explained in Applicants' specification at page 6, lines 1-8, with corresponding Figure 1, Applicants' invention improves upon conventional suspension arms because the vertical wall is dimensioned to best stabilize the section of the suspension arm upon operation of that arm under compression due to a braking or longitudinal shock. The claimed invention thus leads to improved performance of the suspension arm.

Turning now to the cited references, Kato describes a deformable suspension arm for an automotive vehicle. The outstanding Office Action cites to one of the vertical walls shown in Figure 5(E) of Kato as disclosing the vertical wall presently recited in amended Claim 16. However, as shown in Figure 5(E) of Kato, the vertical walls described in Kato do not raise above a center part of the arm member 21. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that none of the vertical walls in Kato are the "vertical wall along a first side, extending above the center part" recited in amended Claim 16.

Kurosu describes an upper arm in a vehicle suspension system. Specifically, Kurosu describes an upper arm with a body portion 1 made of a plane that includes an inner flange 2 extending downwardly from an inner edge of the body portion 1 and an outer flange 3 extending downwardly from an outer edge of the body portion 1.² Neither of the flanges 2, 3 described in Kurosu are a vertical wall extending above the body portion 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Kurosu does not teach or suggest the "vertical wall along a first side, extending above the center part" recited in amended Claim 16.

² See Kurosu, at column 3, lines 16-32, with corresponding Figures 2-5.

Therefore, even if the combination of Kato and Kurosu is assumed to be proper, the combination fails to teach or suggest every element of the claimed invention. Specifically, the combination fails to teach the claimed "vertical wall along a first side, extending above the center part." Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse, and request reconsideration of, the rejection of the claims based on Kato and Kurosu.

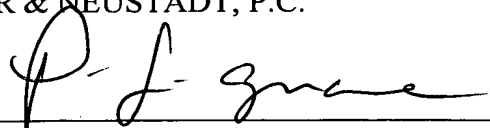
In order to vary the scope of protection recited in the claims, new Claims 31-38 are added. New Claims 31-38 find non-limiting support in the disclosure as originally filed, for example at page 6, lines 1-24, with corresponding Figures 1 and 2. Therefore, the changes to the claims are not believed to raise a question of new matter. Additionally, as new Claims 31-38 depend from Claim 16, it is respectfully submitted that new Claims 31-38 are allowable at least for the reasons discussed above.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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